

March 22, 1978

LR 197,
LB 953

PRESIDENT WHELAN PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: The Legislature will please come to order. Record your presence.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Savage, Marsh, Mills, Dworak, Koch, Cope and Moylan would like to be excused until they arrive.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fitzgerald, for what purpose do you ask recognition?

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Just one question, sir. I was just wondering what Barry has in his pocket. I was just checking. He has something and he won't show it to me.

PRESIDENT: You can come up and ask him if you would like. Record.

CLERK: Quorum present, Mr. President. Mr. President, LR 197 is ready for your signature.

PRESIDENT: While the Legislature is in session, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR 197.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Koch has amendments to LB 953 he has been excused. Senator Burrows has amendments, Mr. President, which can be found on page 1258 of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I'd refer again the amendment. I move the adoption of the amendment. It is found on page 1258 of the Legislative Journal. What it does is it strips \$400,000 from the Department of Educational Lands and Funds, capital improvement fund. I would like to reference you to the handout that I passed out on your desk, which shows last year in total they spent \$635,664. This \$400,000 is new appropriation money, it is money that the Department of Educational Lands and Funds received from rentals and is money that does not come directly from General Funds. However, if we strip this \$400,000 out, it will go to replace property tax, it will go directly to the school districts. Now it would leave the carry-over money of \$614,000 to them. In their plan for the coming year, they had approximately \$600,000 for soil conservation practices planned for the following year. That is the information that I got from the staff from Steve Morris who wrote the memo for me. This...they had planned \$700,000 for developing irrigation projects and I object very seriously to seeing the Department of Educational Lands and Funds using money that would replace property taxes to go in competition with the present farmers of this state. We are funding digging the wells and capping the entire well. This does not include the center pivots but the well and the casing and so forth which generally runs from \$4,000-\$8,000 per well as an investment. Presently the corn prices do not justify it. In the last six months it will show that they are spending about \$80,000 for it. I think that it is out of the picture